



# COVID-19: Update and Implications for Workers Compensation



**Secretary Lee A. Norman, MD, MHS, MBA**

**Kansas Department of Health and Environment | State Health Officer  
2020 Virtual Workers Compensation Seminar**

**29 September, 2020**

# Objectives:

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- Understand COVID-19 impacts on US and Kansas
- Learn how case investigation and contact tracing fit in - determining site of acquired infection
- Looking toward the future: a forecast and vaccine prospects

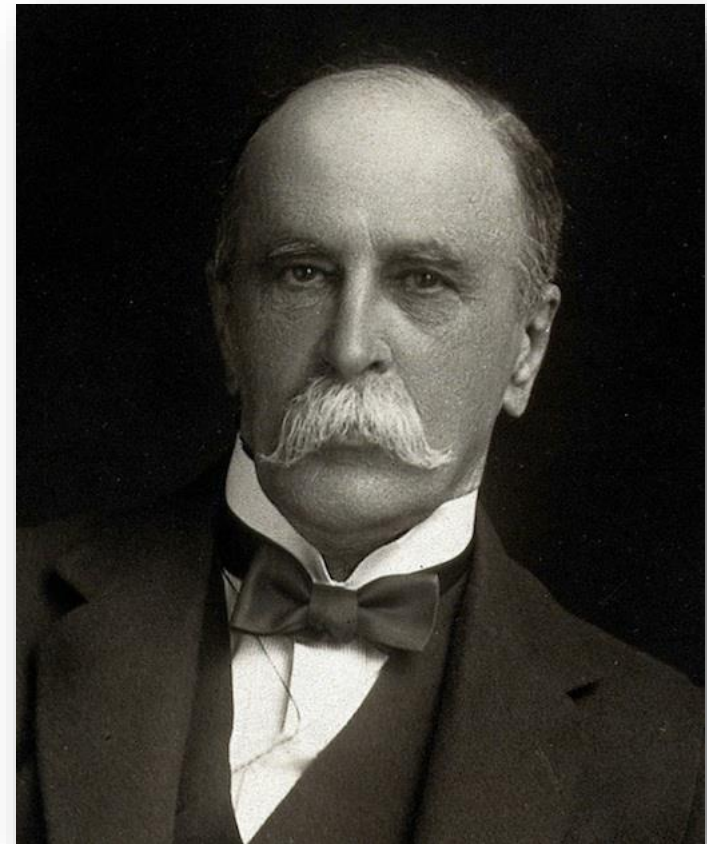


# COVID-19: Immediate Impact on Kansas Medicaid

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“Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine, and war; of these by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever.”

- Sir William Osler, MD (1849-1919)





# COVID-19: Immediate Impact on Kansas Medicaid



**The New York Times** | <https://nyti.ms/2nO1RMj>

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTORS

## The Real Threat to National Security: Deadly Disease

By MICHAEL T. OSTERHOLM and MARK OLSHAKER MARCH 24, 2017

While the Trump administration is proposing significantly increased military spending to enhance our national security, it seems to have lost sight of the greatest national security threat of all: our fight against infectious disease.

We already spend far more on our military than any other country in the world. To help pay for the increases, President Trump wants to cut back many federal programs, including those that prepare us to wage war against microbes, the greatest and most lethal enemy we are ever likely to face. This is where “defense spending” needs to increase, significantly.

# Recent experiences have helped inform our approach

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- H1N1
- MERS-CoV





# The context: US and Kansas

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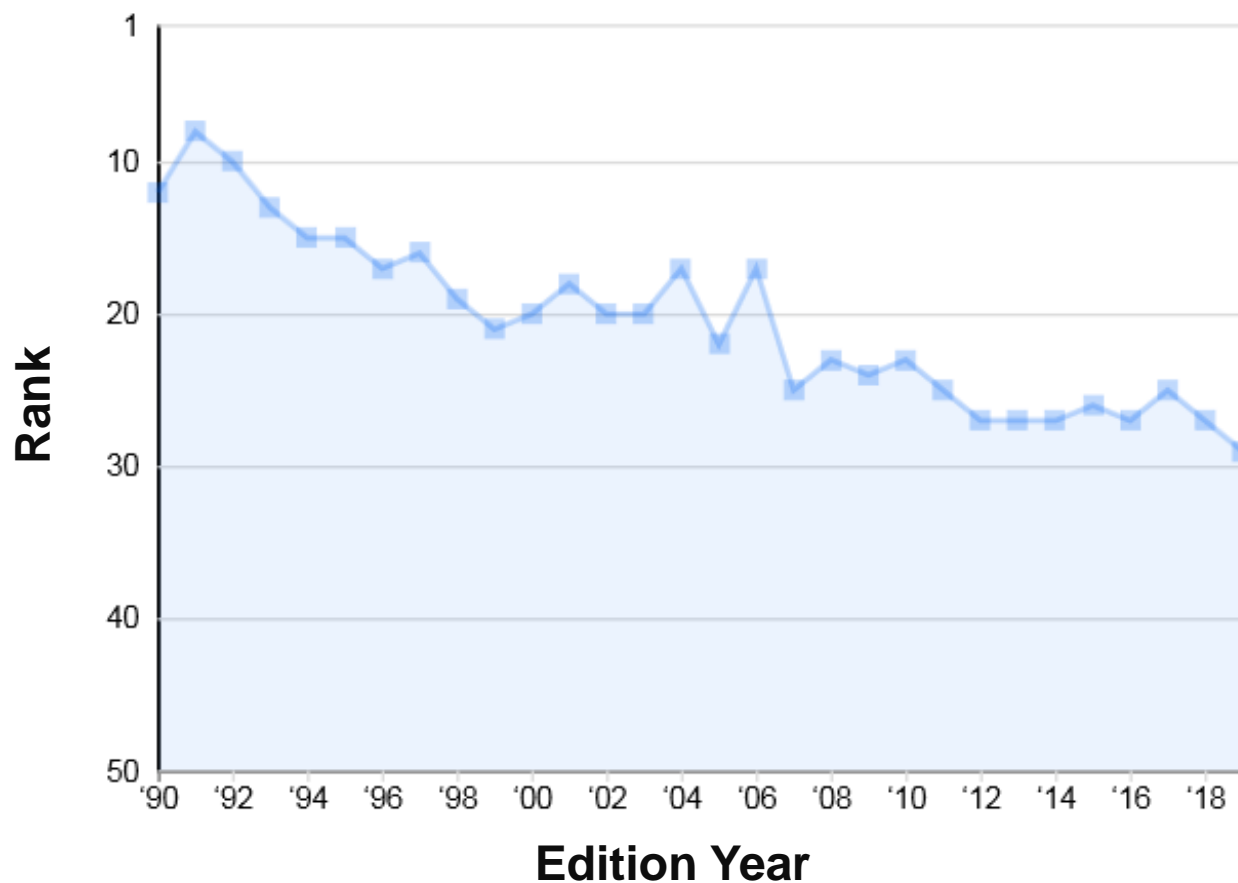


# Kansas Health Ranking 1990-2019

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*Of all the states in the US, over the past 30 years, Kansas has seen the greatest decline in its health rankings.*

*(America's Health Rankings,  
December 6, 2019)*



# Significant concern about Kansas public health capacity

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- Under-investment in public health
- Antiquated State public health and lab
- Emergency preparedness position at “phase Ø” (stability operations) with little surge capability
- Strained Local Health Department (LHD) and safety net resources
- And then COVID-19 arrives...





# Immediate response?

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## Federal

- Denial, anger, defensiveness
- Competing messaging
- Politicizing everything Covid-related
- Shortages and competition: PPE, testing platforms and supplies
- Long test result turnaround times

## State and Local

- Immediate incident command
- County and State emergency declarations
- Unification with State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) / KDEM
- Capacity-building despite constrained resources
- Early strategic decision-making

# Kansas response Lines of Effort (LOE)

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## LOE 1

Epidemiology/  
disease tracking

## LOE 2

Community testing  
and lab testing  
alternatives

## LOE 3

Media/community  
education and  
engagement

## LOE 4

Isolation/  
quarantine  
management and  
enforcement

## LOE 5

Policy and  
guidelines

## LOE 6

Community  
relations, school  
and LHD liaison  
function

## LOE 7

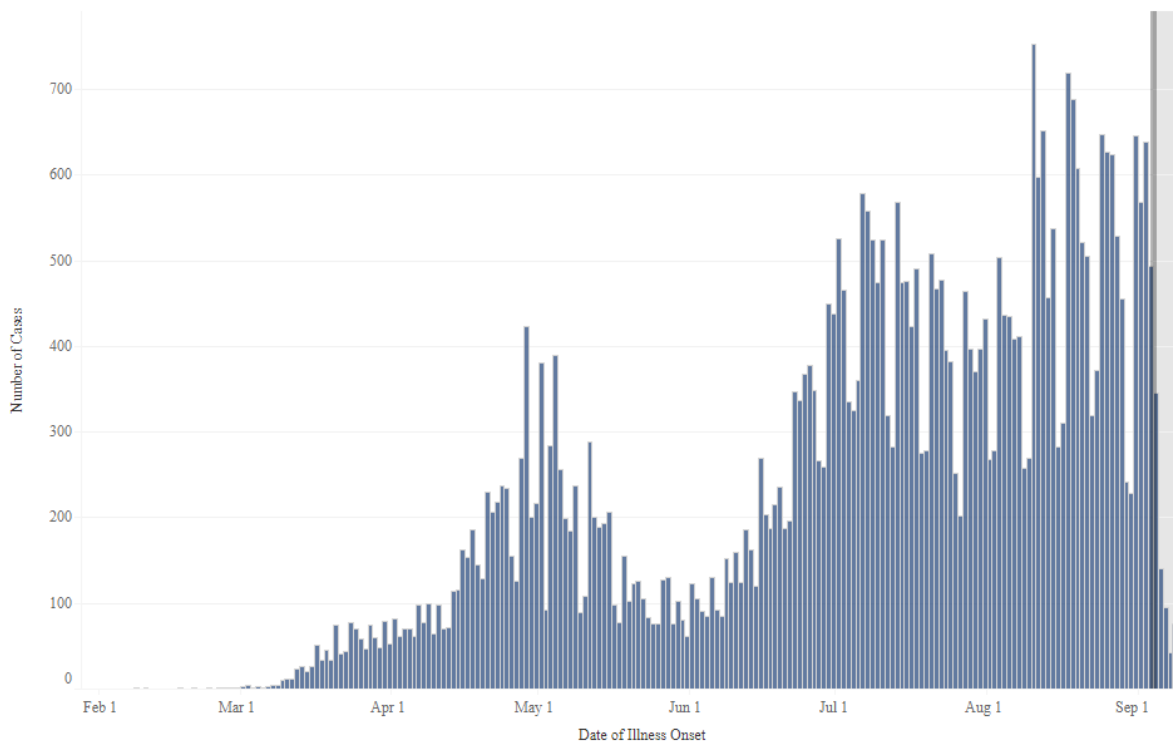
Best practices  
research

## LOE 8

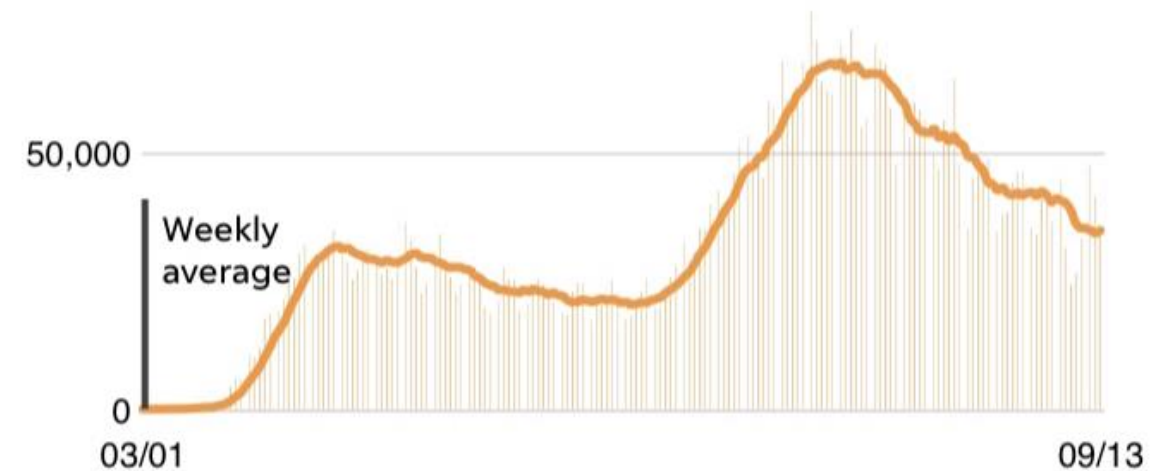
Materials, supplies  
and stockpile

# New cases, Kansas and the US

Statewide COVID-19 Cases  
by Symptom Onset Date



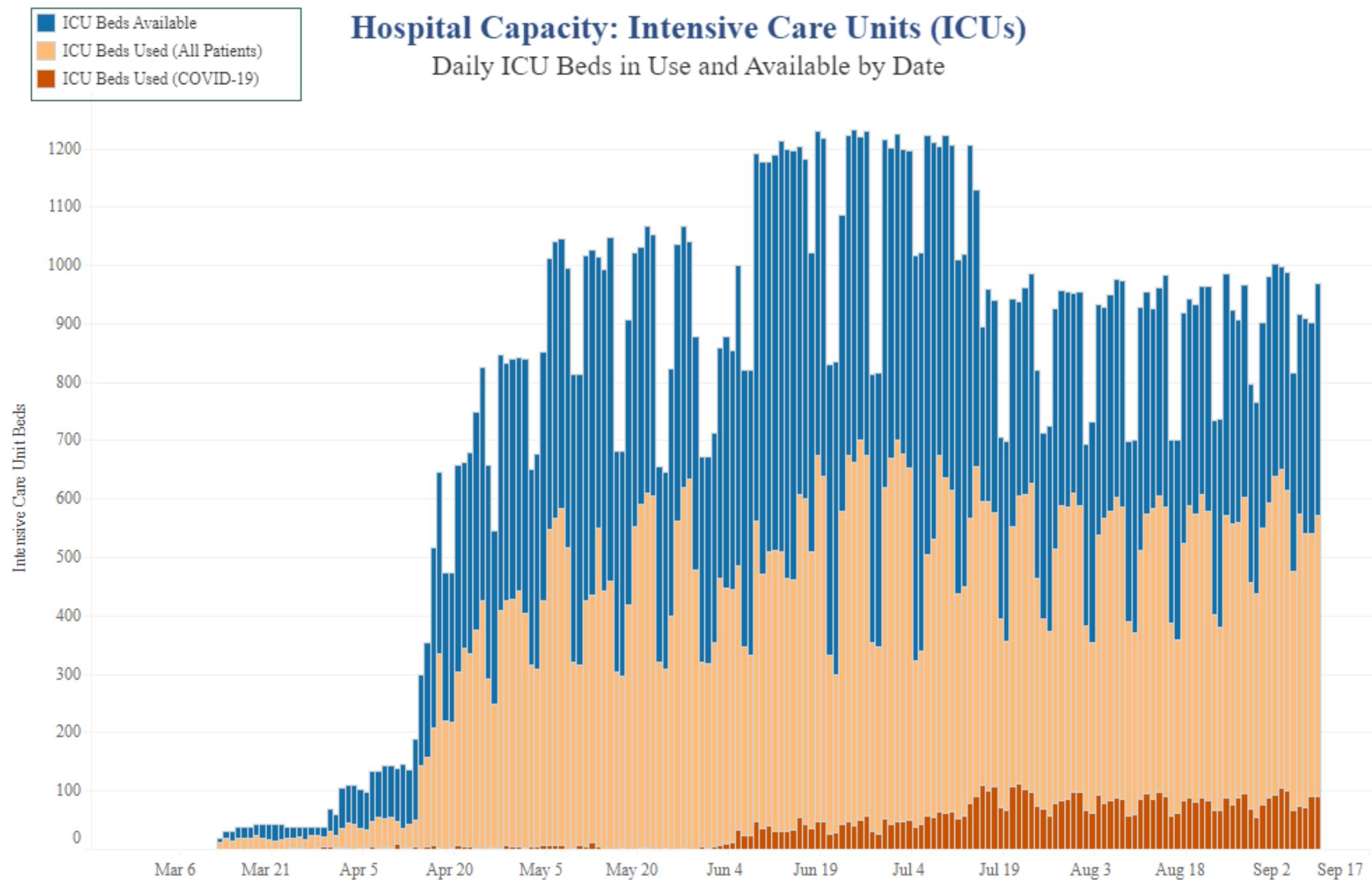
New cases per day





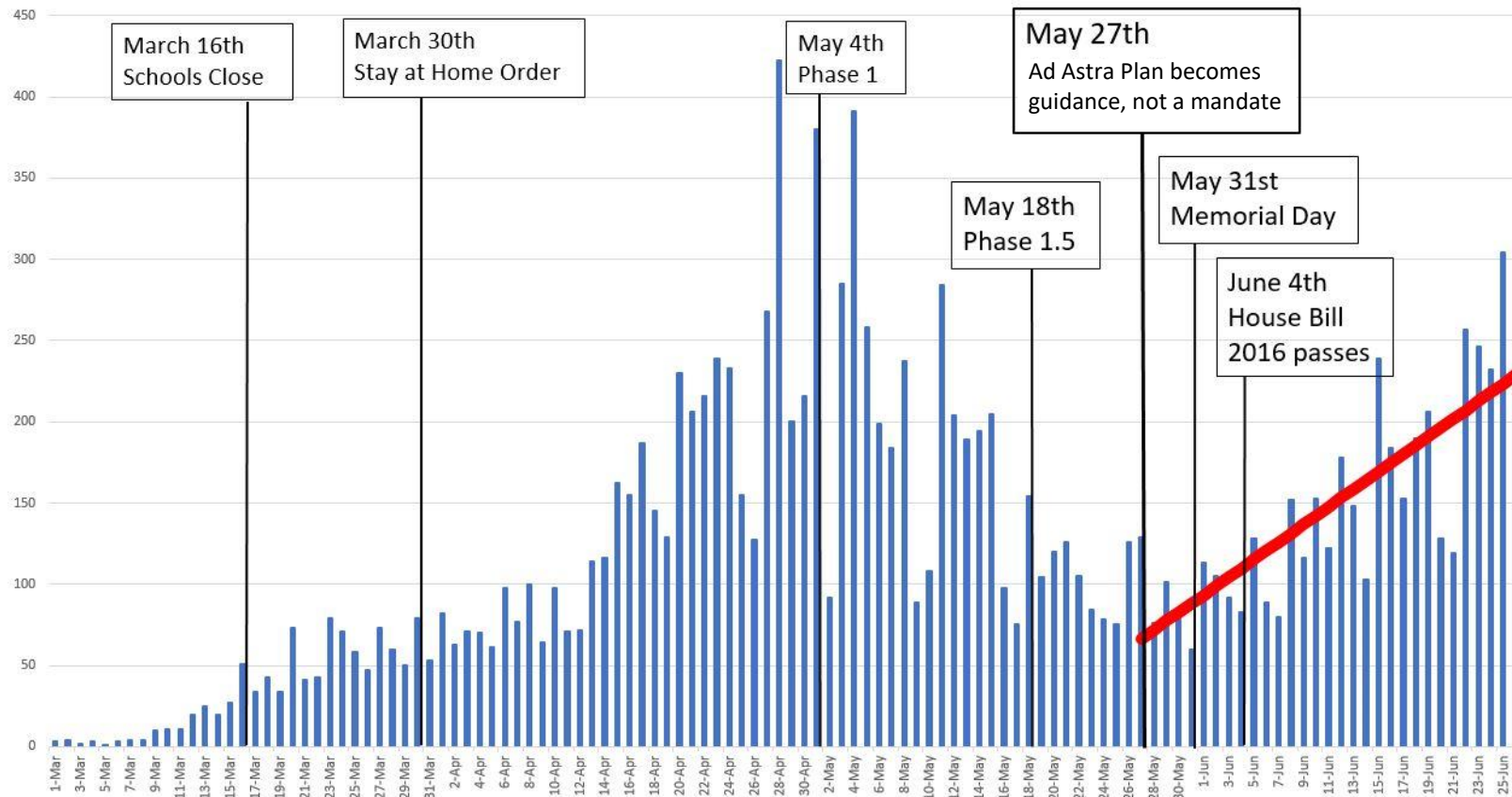
# Hospital Capacity: Intensive Care Units (ICUs)

Daily ICU Beds in Use and Available by Date



# Public policy matters

Kansas COVID-19 Daily Cases by Symptom Onset Date



# Moving safely ahead – the minimum

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## **COVID-19: Reopening**

- Can do RT-PCR testing for every person that needs a test today.
- Hospitals have enough surge capacity to handle a rapid 25% increase in patients requiring ICU care.
- Healthcare workers have adequate PPE supplies to handle the surge in care.
- Syndromic surveillance in place.



# Associating an infection with a workplace:

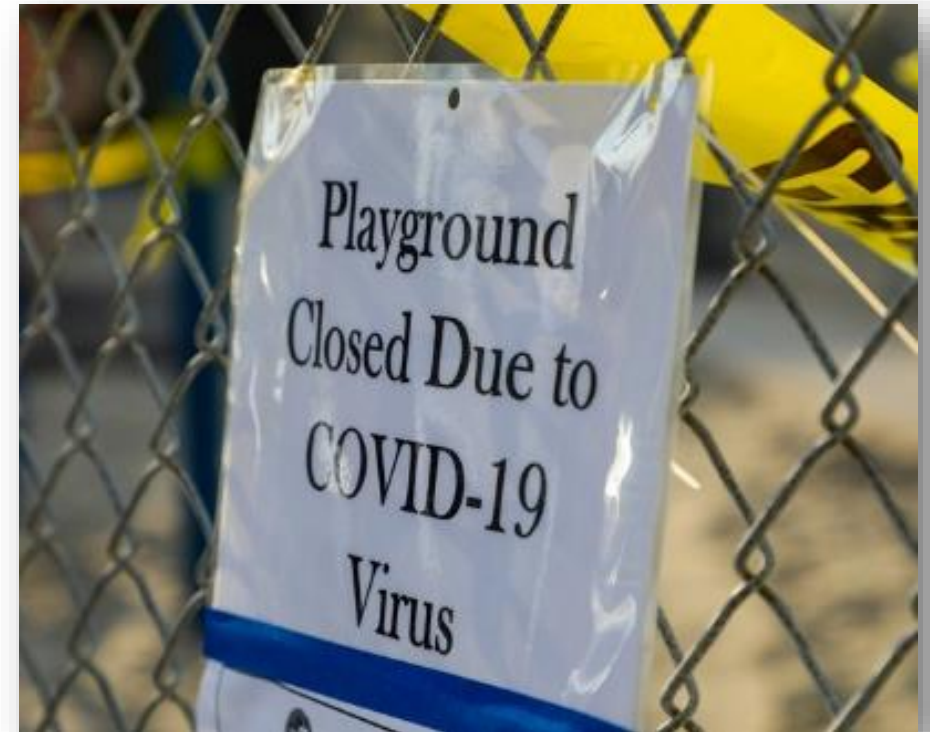


- The series of events:
  - Testing
  - Data transmission
  - Case investigation
  - Contact tracing
- The role of GPS and Bluetooth-assisted technology
- The role of “third parties” (employers, school administration) to assist
- The range of employer responses
- State and county health officials’ authorities to order mandatory facility and event closure
- The importance of employer “active listening” to employee concerns
- Employer negligence

# What does the future hold?

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- Understanding “genetic drift” and change in the virus
- Status of vaccine development



## RESET LAYOUT



20C



20A

20B



19A

19B

2020-Jan

2020-Mar

Date \_\_\_\_\_

2020-May

2020-Jul

2020-Se

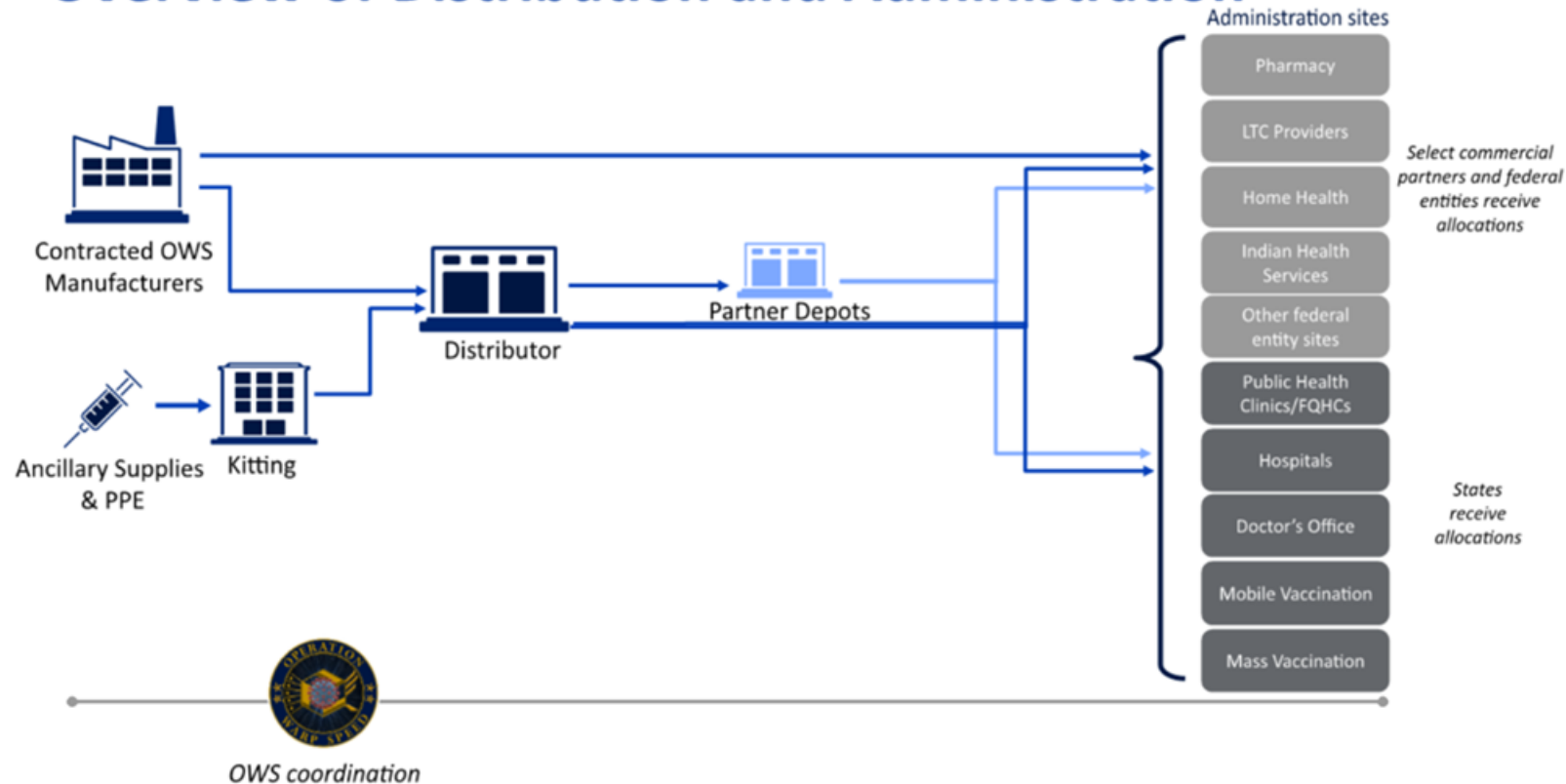


# Vaccine Ordering and Distribution



Department of Health  
and Environment

## Overview of Distribution and Administration



8/26/20

# Questions and discussion

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“Nobody ever thanks you for saving them from the disease they didn’t know they were going to get.”

- *William Foege*



# SARS-CoV-2 vaccine prospects

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